6/15/71

Dear Harold,

The leak to the Times could not have been more appropriate for my paper. Now, instead of going through many burdensome proofs about what Johnson did, the Pentagon has done my work for me. I am indebted.

Of course, the leak tells us what we knew, but it adds beautiful detail and confirmation, officially too. Some of the memoranda are just unbelievable.

I'm keeping a file on this, naturally, but won't send copies to you since I presume you're getting the news now, and want to concentrate on other things. I'll be getting the Times articles, although there have been partial reprints in Phila. papers.

I have a suspicion that it was deliberately leaked by the Nixon administration to blast LBJ to shreads before the public and thus reinforce Nixon's image as the man who is striving to get us out of a war he didn't make. Even so, this adds another perspective to the official concept of "national security," i.e., protecting the people from the lies of its government. Though I'm glad to see it come out, it is quite disturbing.

Enclosed are some things I thought would be of interest.

My best to Lil. Hope she is back to normal soon.

CC&BW,

Howard